

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks. Claims 1-13 and 20-32 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 29, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 USC 112 as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Claims 1, 29, 31 and 32 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 28, 31 and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Filivpovic et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,847). Claims 1, 29, 31 and 32 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-4, 10-13 and 28 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 2-4, 10 and 12-13 are rewritten in independent form and are, therefore, not narrowed. Claim 11 depends on claim 10. Claims 28 depends on claim 3.

Claims 5-9, 20-27 and 30 are allowed.

Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. In view of the above, all the claims are considered patentable and allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned (at direct line 512-457-7233) for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.136(a) pertaining to patent application processing fees, Applicant requests an extension of time from March 22, 2004 to June 22, 2004 in which to respond to the Office Action dated December 22, 2003. A notification of extension of time is filed herewith.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0456 of Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich, LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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